

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

\*13-15 November 1987, 4 H Camp, Luther

\*20-22 May 1988, Mason City

## FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52240). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

\*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)

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## IOWA BIRDLINE 319-622-3353

The birdline is a two to three minute recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Carl Bendorf checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

## I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 715 West St., Colo, IA 50056).

## MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52240):

\*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.

\*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1987 Edition: 10 for \$1.65, 25 for \$3.50, 100 for \$11.60, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings for \$0.10 each.

## REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of De Soto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa.

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## MEET I.O.U. PRESIDENT JAMES J. DINSMORE

THOMAS H. KENT

Jim Dinsmore, newly elected President of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, dates his interest in birds back to age 4 or 5 when he made drawings of birds. He spent his boyhood days in Owatonna, Minnesota, where he was born in 1942. He started a life list as early as age 10. Jim's ever-increasing interest in nature and birds was supported by his parents, but he recalls no outstanding milestones or mentors.

Jim came to Iowa State University in 1960 planning to major in mathematics. During his freshman year, he was advised by Professor Milton Weller that a major in Fish and Wildlife Management would be a good fit for his interest in biology and that it offered a career opportunity in teaching. Little did Jim know that he would later assume Weller's position at Iowa State.

Following graduation in 1964, Jim went to the University of Wisconsin, where he received a Master of Science degree in Zoology in 1967. His research was on the Greater Bird-of-Paradise of the West Indies. He then went to the University of Florida, where he received a Ph.D in 1970. His thesis was on Sooty Tern behavior in the Dry Tortugas. Jim took a position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Tampa in 1971 and rose to the rank of Associate Professor before getting the call from Iowa State University in 1975 to fill the position vacated by Weller. Jim was promoted to Professor in the Department of Animal Ecology in 1981.



At Iowa State University, Jim teaches courses in ornithology, advises graduate students, and carries out research on bird ecology. He is well liked and respected by his students. Many of his students become wildlife biologists or take other positions in Iowa's Department of Natural Resources. His graduate students have carried out field studies on waterfowl, hawks, rails, coots, shorebirds, and crows. In addition to his studies with graduate students, Jim has written a number of important ornithological reviews including studies of Cattle Egret, Piping Plover, and Mountain Plover. With coauthors, he published *Iowa Birds*, a major review of all of Iowa's birds (Dinsmore et al. 1984). His interest in Iowa's breeding birds is manifest by two major review articles (Dinsmore 1981, Zaletel and Dinsmore 1985).

Since his return to Iowa, Jim has been very active in ornithological activities in the state. I first found him listed as a contributor to the Field Reports in *Iowa Bird Life* for the summer of 1976, and he has been a faithful correspondent ever since. He frequently conveys sightings from around the state reported to him by current and former students. Jim makes a conscious effort to promote communication and interaction among Iowa's birders, state naturalists, and students of ornithology. We appreciate this effort and the friendly manner in which he carries it out.

My own acquaintance with Jim started with correspondence from field reports sent to *Iowa Bird Life*, but was greatly expanded when the project to write a book on Iowa birds was started in July 1979. Through our work on the book, I observed Jim's unwavering open and friendly manner, organized and punctual dedication to projects, and pervasive concern for development of ornithology in Iowa. I found it unusual that an 'academic' person would take such a strong interest in a 'lay' group, such as the I.O.U.

Jim and his wife, Pat, live in Ames with their two teen-aged daughters and son, Steve, who is a sophomore at Iowa State University and one of the most active birders in the state. Another son died in 1984.

Jim assumes the presidency of the I.O.U. with considerable prior experience within our organization. Committee assignments have included the Records Committee (1980 to 1986), the Constitution Committee (chair, 1984-1985), the Publications Committee (chair, 1985 to present), and the Library/Historical Committee (chair, 1986 to present). He was elected Vice President in 1985 and, in that position, has been responsible for the programs at I.O.U. meetings. He has also presented several workshops at our meetings. Jim has been the summer season Field Reports Editor for *Iowa Bird Life* since 1984.

Jim believes that the I.O.U. has matured considerably in the past decade and looks forward to working with the members to continue the progress we have made. We will be looking forward to hearing a lot more from Jim in the next two years.

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# WARBLERS OF SOUTHEAST IOWA FORESTS

ROBERT W. HOWE, JOHN FLECKENSTEIN, DARYL HOWELL, KENNETH LANE

In this paper, we examine the distribution of six forest-dwelling wood warblers (Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Ovenbird) during the breeding season in southeast Iowa. These species are of interest because of their rarity in Iowa or because they have declined elsewhere in their range.

Our study focuses on the Des Moines River, a major tributary of the Mississippi River that flows diagonally through Iowa. The Des Moines River watershed encompasses some of Iowa's most significant forest habitats in southeast Iowa. The ranges of several species (e.g., Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warbler) extend well into central Iowa along this corridor (Dinsmore et al. 1984). We are unable to provide an exhaustive survey, even for this small portion of Iowa. Instead, our goals are to present some general results illustrating the local status of these species and to suggest conservation measures and areas for future investigation.

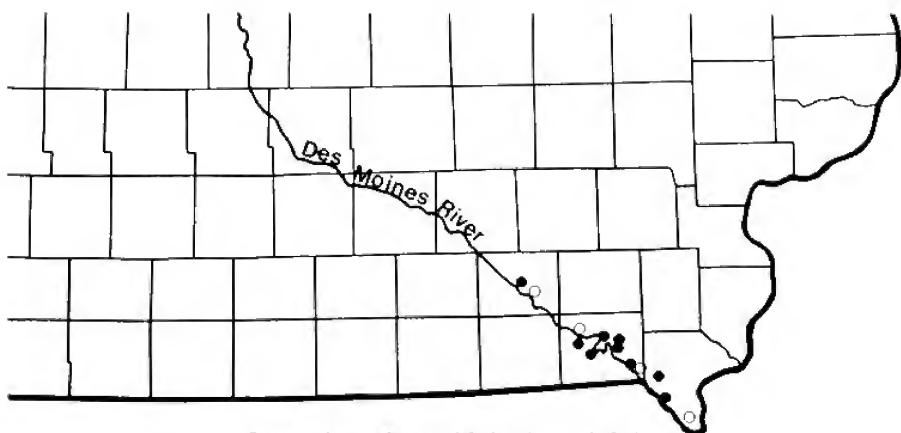
## METHODS

Recent records of the six warbler species were gathered through a review of published accounts and through correspondence with active ornithologists (especially James Dinsmore, Timothy Dwyer, Kathy Fisher, Darwin Koenig, and James Sandrock). This information was summarized by Kristen Johnson of Iowa State University in a graduate research project under the supervision of Kenneth Lane, and by the Iowa Natural Areas Inventory, a program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy. Lane and Johnson used topographic maps and aerial photos to identify potential forest tracts and then investigated these areas by aerial surveys and ground checks. Contiguous forest area, lack of heavy disturbance, and presence of sycamores (important for Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warblers) were major criteria of evaluation.

Lane and Johnson identified 17 large forest tracts (excluding state forests and state parks); nine were considered to be of high priority because of their large size (> 300 acres) and minimal disturbance. During June of 1983, Robert Howe, David Bowles, and Jon Stravers surveyed six of the high priority sites and one second priority site, in addition to Lacey-Keosauqua State Park and Shimek State Forest. In May of 1986, Daryl Howell and John Fleckenstein surveyed Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, one unit of Shimek State Forest, and one of the high priority sites.

One to three observers walked along a transect or loop through the major portion of each site; all birds seen or heard were recorded. These surveys were neither exhaustive nor systematic, but they provided significant opportunities to detect the presence of breeding warblers. One site was visited by three observers for 1 hour; all others were visited for at least 2 hours.

The primary objective of our field work was to identify localities where the target species were present during the breeding season. The location of the sites along with four additional high priority sites identified by Lane and Johnson are shown in the Figure. From the mouth of the Des Moines



*Survey sites and potential sites (open circles).*

River northward, they are located in Lee (3 sites), Van Buren (8 sites), and Wapello (2 sites) counties. Exact descriptions of the study areas are on file in Des Moines with the Iowa Natural Areas Inventory.

## RESULTS

Ovenbird and Kentucky Warbler were found at all of the 1986 sites and at all of the 1983 sites except one, a lower quality stand dominated by immature trees with numerous openings. A Kentucky Warbler nest with young was found by Howe in Van Buren County, Washington Township, confirming that breeding occurs in southeast Iowa.

Yellow-throated Warbler and Northern Parula were found at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park and Shimek State Forest, both traditional sites with numerous recent records (Sandrock 1986). At least five Yellow-throated Warblers were seen at Lacey-Keosauqua in 1986. Howell found a bird building a nest. We encountered Yellow-throated Warbler at three other localities during 1983. Several individuals were heard at each site. James Sandrock (personal communication) has found Yellow-throated Warbler at a fourth privately-owned locality in Van Buren County, and other public lands (Wildcat Den State Park and Ledges State Park) have yielded probable breeding records (Dinsmore et al. 1984). Northern Parula was encountered even more frequently, occurring at all except two of the sites evaluated during 1983. In all cases, we found these two species in the vicinity of sycamores; indeed, Northern Parula Warblers were found at all sizable patches of sycamores evaluated during 1983.

Worm-eating Warbler was observed at only two localities during 1983, both large, publicly-owned forests where it had been recorded in the past (Sandrock 1986). At least 3 individuals were recorded at the Lick Creek Unit of Shimek State Forest and at least 2 were observed in Lacey-Keosauqua State Park. Occurrence at these locations was confirmed by Howell in 1986--3 at Lacey-Keosauqua and 4 at Lick Creek.

We encountered no Hooded Warblers during our investigations despite the presence of apparently suitable habitat.

Several other wood warblers relevant to our studies of southeast Iowa forests should be mentioned. Louisiana Waterthrush, a bird of moist forests

and stream-sides, was encountered at all but two of our 1983 localities. Cerulean Warbler, a bird typically found in mature riparian forests, was observed only at Shimek State Forest. Black-and-white Warbler, a forest species reported to need large, unfragmented forest tract (Robbins 1979, Whitcomb et al. 1981), was not observed at all during our study. Blue-winged Warbler was found at several forest edge or woodland sites during our 1983 and 1986 investigations. A singing Prairie Warbler was seen from close range at one of these areas (near Bonaparte, Van Buren County). Yellow-breasted Chat, a bird of brushy thickets, was not observed during 1983 but was found in 1986 west of Argyle, Lee County.

## DISCUSSION

Although Ovenbird and Kentucky Warbler require rather large forest tracts and are sensitive to habitat fragmentation (Robbins 1979, Whitcomb et al. 1981), their populations seem to be secure today in southeast Iowa. Ovenbird is widespread across the state in appropriate habitat. Kentucky Warbler is less widely distributed. The future of both species in Iowa seems good as long as large forest tracts (such as those surveyed here) are maintained. Destruction of wintering habitat is perhaps a more important concern for the immediate future (Powell and Rappole 1986).

The association of Yellow-throated Warblers with sycamores has long been noted—Ridgeway (1901) designated the Mississippi Valley subspecies the Sycamore Warbler. The local predilection of Northern Parula for sycamores, however, is not as widely recognized (Bent 1953, Harrison 1984). Emphasis usually is given to association of Northern Parula with Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia*) in the South and old man's beard lichen (*Usnea*) in the North. As long as mature stands of sycamores are maintained along river courses in southeast Iowa, the local breeding status of Yellow-throated Warbler and Northern Parula also seems to be secure. Given the specific habitat needs of these two peripheral species, riparian forest management for sycamores may improve their status in Iowa.

Worm-eating Warbler was one of our primary targets during 1983 and 1986, so its absence from most of these forest tracts was disappointing. Petersen (1979) reported 15 observations during the State Preserves Board annual foray in southeast Iowa in 1979. Dinsmore et al. (1984) suggest that this species might be more common than records indicate, an idea that is not supported by our analysis. Nearly all recent records have come from only a few localities. All of these, including Amana Woods in Iowa County, White Pine Hollow in Dubuque County, and the sites mentioned above, are among Iowa's largest remaining forest tracts. Virtually all studies of habitat fragmentation in eastern United States have identified this species as extremely sensitive to the amount of forest area. The individuals observed by us in Shimek State Forest and Lacey-Keosauqua State Park were found far within the forest interior. Robbins (1979) and J. Faaborg (personal communication) report that the minimum area requirements of Worm-eating Warbler in Maryland and Missouri, respectively, exceed 300 ha (750 acres), even though the territories of individual birds are much smaller than this. Contiguous forest tracts of this size are very rare in Iowa, and the future of Worm-eating Warblers in the state must be considered precarious at best.

An increase in sightings of Hooded Warblers in Iowa has been noted optimistically (Bendorf 1982, Dinsmore et al. 1984). Our analysis and studies from other regions (Powell and Rappole 1986) suggest that the documented increase of Hooded Warbler in Iowa should be interpreted cautiously. The increase may reflect successional changes in the quality of Iowa's forests. Askins and Philbrick (1986), for example, describe a recent increase of Hooded Warblers in Connecticut, where declines had been documented previously. They suggest that the increase is best explained by regrowth of forests in the vicinity of their study site. Destruction of wintering habitat has been suggested as a major cause of current and future declines in Hooded Warbler populations (Powell and Rappole 1986), but obviously long-term information will be needed to evaluate the status of this species.

Cerulean Warbler appears to be fairly widespread in northeast Iowa (personal observation), yet this species was found in only one of our study areas in southeast Iowa. Perhaps it should be considered in the same light as the area-sensitive Hooded Warbler and Worm-eating Warbler.

Other warblers of southeast Iowa (Yellow-breasted Chat, Louisiana Waterthrush) occur in microhabitats that were not consistently present in our study areas, so our results have limited value in evaluating their status.

Present knowledge provides only a general sketch of warbler distribution in southeast Iowa. For the future, more intensive studies and continuous monitoring of known locations are needed. Although locally distributed, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Northern Parula, and Yellow-throated Warbler seem to be secure for the moment. Protection of large forest tracts with ungrazed understory will help insure the survival of Ovenbird and Kentucky Warbler. Management of riparian woodlands with mature sycamores will help sustain Iowa's small populations of Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warbler. Management should include maintenance of existing sycamores and establishment of new stands. Destruction of wintering habitat might affect future population levels, but the possibility of such events should not depreciate the importance of conservation measures in Iowa.

Worm-eating Warblers and Hooded Warblers, according to our analysis, should be among Iowa's highest conservation priorities. Iowa is on the periphery of the post-settlement range of both species, so it is likely that neither was ever common in the state. Although no recent nests have been documented in Iowa, we believe that the consistency of summer records warrants an assumption of breeding or potential breeding. The recipe for conservation of both species seems to be rather simple: maintain large (> 700 acre) tracts of native deciduous forest, particularly in the vicinity of recent sightings. Selective logging seems to be tolerated (although not necessarily favored), as evidenced by the occurrence of Worm-eating Warblers in Shimek State Forest and Amana Woods. Large clearcuts within critical habitats, on the other hand, are likely to be detrimental. Worm-eating and Hooded warblers at the edge of their range might be especially sensitive to habitat modifications, such as forest fragmentation. The specific habitat requirements of these species in Iowa need to be studied.

In summary, several of Iowa's most unique species were found in carefully selected forest tracts of southeast Iowa. One species (Worm-eating

Warbler) was found less frequently than anticipated, while another (Hooded Warbler) was not found at all. Studies from other parts of eastern North America suggest that these species require large forest tracts and have become uncommon or extirpated in parts of their ranges. Opportunities still exist for conserving appropriate habitats for these and other uncommon birds in Iowa. Ornithologists can contribute toward these conservation efforts through conscientious monitoring and detailed habitat studies. New areas undoubtedly await discovery in southeast Iowa and perhaps elsewhere. Riparian forests along the Mississippi River, in particular, should be investigated. As more information accumulates on the status and habitat needs of these sensitive species, a stronger case can be made for permanent protection of forest remnants in southeast Iowa.

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# OBSERVATIONS ON THE MOBGING RESPONSE

PETER E. LOWTHER, WADE J. OLSON,

RONAN T. YOUNG, AND MARY JO LUTTENTON

Mobbing is an aggressive behavior given by individuals of one or more species towards some potentially dangerous animal, a "predator." The behavior is similar to intraspecific territory defense. Birds that are mobbing frequently change position, perform various stereotyped wing and tail movements, and give alarm calls (Curio 1978). Mobbing often attracts other individuals of the same or different species to join the group. Here we give accounts of mobbing responses towards a Great Horned Owl model by the bird community in general and by a Red-winged Blackbird colony.

## METHODS

Between 22 June and 5 July 1982, the presentation of a mounted Great Horned Owl was used to elicit a mobbing response from birds. A total of 23 presentations, each of 20 minutes duration, were monitored at sites near Alta, Buena Vista County, and at or near Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Dickinson County, Iowa. These presentations were conducted in several types of habitats, including farm groves, deciduous forest, marsh, prairie, forest edge, and pasture. The owl mount was placed where it could be observed from 25 to 50 m. The times of arrival and departure of each bird were recorded as were the actions of the birds at the mobbing site. The first individual to appear at the site was called the "initiator"; birds that arrived later were called "joiners." The intensity of response was ranked using a scale modified from the work of Robertson and Norman (1976). The behavior scores varied from 1 to 6: 1 = distant (> 5 m), silent observation; 2 = close, silent observation; 3 = flyby investigation; 4 = distant alarm calling; 5 = close alarm calling; and 6 = attack. Response duration was ranked from 1 to 4: 1 = less than 1 minute; 2 = 1 to 5 minutes; 3 = 5 to 10 minutes; and 4 = more than 10 minutes. All judgments of response were made by Olson. The birds did not appear to be affected by the observer's presence.

Between 22 June and 7 July 1984, 12 presentations of a Great Horned Owl mount were made in order to observe the relationship between mobbing intensity and parental investment by male Red-winged Blackbirds. These birds were 7 breeding males at a small (0.42 ha) pothole within Cayler Prairie Preserve, Dickinson County, Iowa. The owl was mounted on a 1.5 m pole and placed at one of four sites around the colony. Responses of red-wings were observed from 10 to 15 m. The same ranking scale listed above was used to record response behaviors. All judgments on responses were made by Young. Coupled with each presentation was an assessment of each male's total reproductive effort scored as the total number of active nests (with eggs or young). Distance between the owl and each male's territory was measured in number of average territory diameters. Nest status and territory boundaries were determined by Luttenton.

Chi-square tests of contingency tables were used to search for associations between various classes of mobbers and intensities of mobbing responses.

Table 1. Responses to Great Horned Owl Mount by Species

| Species                 | Total<br>Individuals | Times<br>Initiating | Times<br>Joining | Mean<br>Response<br>Score | Mean<br>Duration<br>Score |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>INITIATORS</b>       |                      |                     |                  |                           |                           |
| Blue Jay                | 12                   | 1                   | 2                | 5.3                       | 3.0                       |
| Barn Swallow            | 22                   | 3                   | 4                | 4.7                       | 1.4                       |
| Red-winged Blackbird    | 23                   | 7                   | 2                | 4.7                       | 2.7                       |
| Gray Catbird            | 4                    | 1                   | 2                | 4.5                       | 3.5                       |
| House Wren              | 6                    | 3                   | 2                | 4.4                       | 2.4                       |
| Common Grackle          | 37                   | 3                   | 4                | 4.2                       | 2.5                       |
| American Crow           | 1                    | 1                   | 0                | 4.0                       | 1.0                       |
| Black-capped Chickadee  | 7                    | 1                   | 3                | 4.0                       | 2.0                       |
| Sedge Wren              | 1                    | 1                   | 0                | 4.0                       | 4.0                       |
| Brown Thrasher          | 4                    | 1                   | 2                | 3.7                       | 3.5                       |
| Red-headed Woodpecker   | 6                    | 1                   | 4                | 3.0                       | 2.0                       |
| <b>JOINERS</b>          |                      |                     |                  |                           |                           |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | 2                    | .                   | 2                | 5.0                       | 4.0                       |
| Eastern Kingbird        | 1                    | .                   | 1                | 4.5                       | 2.0                       |
| American Robin          | 2                    | .                   | 2                | 4.5                       | 3.5                       |
| Brown-headed Cowbird    | 10                   | .                   | 2                | 4.5                       | 1.2                       |
| Killdeer                | 1                    | .                   | 1                | 4.0                       | 2.0                       |
| Northern Flicker        | 5                    | .                   | 5                | 4.0                       | 1.8                       |
| Marsh Wren              | 1                    | .                   | 1                | 4.0                       | 2.0                       |
| Common Yellowthroat     | 1                    | .                   | 1                | 4.0                       | 4.0                       |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak  | 2                    | .                   | 2                | 4.0                       | 2.0                       |
| Indigo Bunting          | 2                    | .                   | 1                | 4.0                       | 1.0                       |
| Dickcissel              | 1                    | .                   | 1                | 4.0                       | 4.0                       |
| American Goldfinch      | 12                   | .                   | 5                | 4.0                       | 2.3                       |
| House Sparrow           | 5                    | .                   | 2                | 4.0                       | 2.0                       |
| Western Meadowlark      | 1                    | .                   | 1                | 3.5                       | 4.0                       |
| Yellow Warbler          | 2                    | .                   | 2                | 3.0                       | 3.5                       |
| Northern Oriole         | 4                    | .                   | 3                | 2.0                       | 2.3                       |
| Scarlet Tanager         | 1                    | .                   | 1                | 1.0                       | 1.0                       |
| Northern Cardinal       | 1                    | .                   | 1                | 1.0                       | 1.0                       |
| Bobolink                | 1                    | .                   | 1                | 1.0                       | 2.0                       |

Table 2. Responses to Great Horned Owl Mount by Red-winged Blackbirds

|                               | Number of Males with Response Score of |     |    |
|-------------------------------|--|-----|----|
|                               | 1-2                                    | 4-5 | 6  |
| <b>NUMBER OF ACTIVE NESTS</b> |  |     |    |
| 1                             | 21                                     | 24  | 15 |
| 2                             | 1                                      | 7   | 4  |
| 3                             | 0                                      | 6   | 6  |
| <b>DISTANCE FROM OWL</b>      |  |     |    |
| < 1 territory diameter        | 0                                      | 2   | 13 |
| 1-2 territory diameters       | 2                                      | 9   | 5  |
| > 2 territory diameters       | 20                                     | 26  | 7  |

## RESULTS

Table 1 summarizes the results of community mobbing responses to the Great Horned Owl for all 26 presentations, including species, numbers, mean behavior score, and mean duration score. Contingency tables were derived from Table 1 to compare species that initiated any of the mobbings with those never observed to do so. No significant difference was found between initiators and joiners with respect to behavior scores (less than 4 vs. 4 or greater; Chi-square = 0.64,  $df = 1$ ,  $p > 0.1$ ) or duration scores (2 or less vs. greater than 2; Chi-square = 2.01,  $df = 1$ ,  $p > 0.1$ ).

The responses of Red-winged Blackbirds to the owl mount in relation to the number of active nests and distance from the owl are summarized in Table 2. The intensity of blackbirds' responses to the owl varied with the total number of active nests and distance from the owl. Males with 2 or 3 active nests made more attacks than expected (Chi-square = 9.42,  $df = 4$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and they made more attacks if the owl was located within their own territory compared to a more distant location (Chi-square = 36.55,  $df = 4$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ).

## DISCUSSION

Which species initiate mobbing? Which individuals initiate or join in mobbing a predator? Do these individuals have territories near the predator's perch or do they come from farther away? Do neighbors cross territory boundaries to join in mobbing? Is mobbing intensity related to stages in the breeding cycle? How do initiators and joiners compare in the intensity and duration of their mobbing response? Such questions require knowledge of territories and breeding status of all birds that can respond to the presence of a predator. Our studies are mostly descriptive but do suggest answers to some of these questions.

An average presentation of owl mobbing can be described as follows. The owl is first noticed during the second minute and joiners appear 2 minutes later. Peak mobbing activity occurs at 8 to 12 minutes; by minute 16 or 17, only a single bird continues the alarm call. Both initiators and joiners give equally intense responses and remain to mob for equal amounts of time.

While searching for red-wing nests, males responded to us as long as we were in or near their territory. In response to the owl, the bird that continues the alarm call the longest may be the bird whose territory is invaded. The number of species and individuals to appear at a mobbing depends on visibility within the habitat and composition of the local bird community.

Many ideas about the function of mobbing, often mutually compatible, have been proposed. Mobbing seems to signal the predator that it has been seen and no longer has a surprise advantage; mobbing will alert other individuals to the presence of a predator; and mobbing serves to teach naive individuals which animals are dangerous (Curio 1978). Our experiments were conducted in the breeding season, and these three hypotheses have application to the situations we tested. The mobbing response becomes more intense as the birds' offspring become older, perhaps because adult birds have more invested in their young (Andersson et al. 1980, but see Knight and Temple 1986 for another explanation). This model fits the be-

havior we observed for Red-winged Blackbirds; males that actually struck the owl were those birds with territories closest to the owl. One of these males had 3 active nests.

Determining which birds mob, and why, involves an understanding of how birds perceive predators, learn to identify them, and measure risks and benefits associated with mobbing. Explaining the details of a particular mobbing event requires knowledge of the structure and composition of the local bird community and knowing how time of year, climate, and habitat influence the intensity and duration of interaction with a predator.

We appreciate the comments of C. H. Trost, C. Webb, and another reviewer in preparing this paper.

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## SPRING BIG DAY COUNT 1987

RAYMOND L. CUMMINS

The second annual Iowa Ornithologists' Union Big Day Count (last year called the Bird-a-thon) attracted six teams, two in the single-county and four in the statewide competition. These six hardy teams identified 198 species in 98.3 hours and collected \$331.00 in contributions for the I.O.U.

The weather was unusually mild throughout the state in early May. Southerly breezes produced warm sunny days and a subnormal passerine migration; for example, the highest warbler count was 19 species.

The highest count for a single county was by the Big Deal Team of Bob Livermore, Jerry Probst, and Alan Rose. They used the early date of 29 April to catch some lingering waterfowl along with the only Common Loon, Eared Grebe, American White Pelican, Osprey, American Avocet, Franklin's Gull, Clay-colored Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, and Purple Finch to post 100 species in Woodbury County. In 15.5 hours they covered 100 miles by car and 5 by foot.

The Rathbun Team of Ray Cummins and Tom Johnson tallied the only Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Northern Mockingbird, Blackburnian Warbler, and Summer Tanager to post 95 species in Appanoose County. In 14.0 hours they covered 92 miles by car and 3.5 by foot.

The highest statewide count of 143 species went to Tetrault's Tigers, a team composed of Tom Kent and Francis Moore with driver Dick Tetrault. This team found the only Least Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, King Rail, Common Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Water Pipit, Bell's Vireo, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Black-and-white Warbler. In 19.7 hours they covered 284 miles by car and 5 by foot in Johnson, Louisa, Iowa, and Tama counties.

Moore's Marauder's with Francis Moore and Tom Kent finished a close second at 138 species. They found the only Red-necked Grebe, Common Goldeneye, Red-shouldered Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Black-bellied Plover, Willet, White-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. In 16.7 hours they covered 197 miles by car and 7 by foot in Benton, Black Hawk, Bremer, and Chickasaw counties.

The team of Eugene Armstrong, Eloise Armstrong, and Dennis Thompson found 124 species including the only Little Blue Heron, Gray Partridge, Piping Plover, Willow Flycatcher, and Yellow-throated Warbler. In 15.4 hours they covered 174 miles by car and 3 by foot in Madison, Polk, Boone, and Dallas counties.

The Quad City team of Ann Barker and Tim Brush identified 120 species including the only Cattle Egret, Hooded Merganser, Western Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Worm-eating Warbler. In 17.0 hours they covered 267 miles by car and 2 by foot in Muscatine, Louisa, Scott, and Clinton counties.

The Tetrault Tigers led the way with \$120.65 in contributions, followed by the Quad City team with \$72.00.

Now is the time to get your team together for next year's fun.

609 S. Main St., Centerville, IA 52544

# REPORT OF RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1986

THOMAS H. KENT AND ROBERT K. MYERS

The Records Committee completed review of one 1985 record and re-reviewed another. Of 41 records from 1986, 27 were accepted and 14 were not.

The content for a new edition of the *Field Checklist of Iowa Birds* was determined and the checklist was published in 1987.

Committee members with years their terms expire are as follows: Barbara L. Wilson (1988), Peter C. Petersen (1989), W. Ross Silcock (1990), Robert K. Myers (1991), Francis L. Moore (1992), Carl J. Bendorf (1993), and Thomas H. Kent, Secretary (appointed by other members).

## OLD RECORDS

**King Eider:** After review of photographs and extensive consultation with experts, the immature male and female eiders found at De Soto N.W.R. from 10 to 24 Nov 1985 (IBL 55:123, 57:88-93) were accepted as King Eiders.

**Iceland Gull:** Additional evidence was evaluated and outside consultation sought on several documentations of one or two sightings of this species. The committee and the consultants were split in their opinions. Those in favor of acceptance argued that all of the features were consistent with second winter Iceland Gull; those not in favor of acceptance felt that more details and photographs would be needed to exclude a small female Glaucous Gull and to add this species to the state list.

## 1986 RECORDS ACCEPTED

**Red-throated Loon:** A winter-plumaged adult at Saylorville Res. on 1 Dec (IBL 57:52) was identified by size and bill shape.

**Pacific Loon:** Four records from Saylorville Res. on 1, 22, and 30 Nov and 6 Dec (IBL 57:13, 52, 59-60) were accepted. The committee was uncertain about the total number of birds present.

**Clark's Grebe:** 3 at Hendrickson M. on 30 May (IBL 56:82) had white above the eye. The committee wished that bill color could have been discerned in these birds, but felt that white above the eye at this time of year indicated Clark's Grebe. The regional editor for *American Birds* (Bruce Peterjohn, personal communication) did not accept the bird because he thought non-breeding-plumaged Western Grebe was a possibility.

**Mountain Plover:** 1 at Colo Ponds on 9-10 Jul (IBL 56:115, 57:25) was documented by many observers. This identification was not easy, because basic-plumaged Lesser Golden-Plover can have a very similar appearance. The lack of edging to the back and wing feathers, light underwings, and dark tail band were crucial features in the identification. Although there is little precedent for the occurrence of this species as far east as Iowa or at this time of year, two Mountain Plovers were identified on 2 July 1986 in Minnesota about 15 miles north of the Iowa border and directly north of Union Slough N.W.R. (Loon 58:154-158).

**Red Knot:** 3 birds in alternate plumage at Saylorville Res. on 5-6 Aug (IBL 57:16, 24) were easily identified.

**Thayer's Gull:** The thousands of gulls at Iowa's reservoirs and along the Mississippi River brought out many gull watchers and documentations of Thayer's Gulls. Although 7 of 14 records were accepted, the committee was at a loss in determining the total number of birds present. Acceptance of records was based on how convincingly the documenters described the subtle features of this species and how well the bird was seen. Accepted records of first-year birds were from 23-30 Nov at Saylorville Res. (IBL 57:17), 3 Dec at Red Rock Res. (\*THK, not previously published), 13 Dec at Red Rock Res. (\*SD, IBL 57:56), 20 Dec at Rathbun Res. (IBL 57:46, 56), and 21 Dec at Keokuk (IBL 57:56). Adult birds were from 20 Dec at Rathbun Res. (IBL 57:46, 56) and 20 Dec at Keokuk (IBL 57:56).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** An adult, Iowa's second record, was described and videotaped at Keokuk on 20 Oct (IBL 57:17, 60-61). Subadults, perhaps the same bird, were described at Saylorville Res. on 29 Nov (IBL 57:17) and Red Rock Res. on 3 Dec (IBL 57:56).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** A second-winter bird was well described and illustrated with drawings at Saylorville Res. on 30 Nov (*IBL* 57:17). Key field marks were given for a first-year bird seen briefly at Red Rock Res. on 3 Dec (*IBL* 57:56). An adult was documented by many and photographed at Bettendorf from 21 Dec into Jan 1987 (*IBL* 57:46, 56).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** A first-winter bird was well described at Rathbun Res. on 20 Dec (*IBL* 57:46, 56).

**Sabine's Gull:** A typical juvenal-plumaged bird was described at Saylorville Res. on 5 Oct (*IBL* 57:17).

**Burrowing Owl:** This unusual winter record from Rathbun Res. on 20, 28 Dec (*IBL* 57:46,56) was described in detail.

**Rufous Hummingbird:** A male stopped briefly at St. Olaf on 10-11 Jul (*IBL* 56:117, 121-122) and was photographed (*IBL* 56:fall cover). The rufous back, a key feature to separate this species from Allen's Hummingbird, was seen on one of the photographs.

**Rock Wren:** A bird at Cedar Rapids on 30 Oct was well described but could not be relocated (*IBL* 57:19, 61). Another at Saylorville Res. from 22 Nov to 8 Dec was documented by many and photographed (*IBL* 57:19, 57, 62).

**Western Tanager:** A male in a yard at Decorah on 22 Apr (*IBL* 56:91) was described convincingly enough to identify this distinctive, not-unexpected spring vagrant.

**Lazuli Bunting:** A male in Cherokee Co. on 16 May (*IBL* 56:91, 96) was well described and occurred at an expected date and location.

## 1986 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

**Ferruginous Hawk:** The reported bird had a light tail, no belly band, and possibly dark legs; it also had a dark head and white flecking on the head and upper wings. The dark head and white flecking suggest Red-tailed Hawk. The lack of belly band and light tail are features of some Red-tailed Hawks. Dark legs would indicate an adult Ferruginous Hawk, but an adult should also show a white tail washed with rust, rusty back and shoulder, pale head, and white patch in outer primaries from above. This species remains on the committee's most-difficult-to-identify list. We hope someone will have the opportunity to get a complete look at a typical Ferruginous Hawk soon.

**Gyr Falcon:** A bird (*IBL* 57:55) was seen for three minutes by one observer and notes made 1.5 hours later. The description, although suggestive, did not completely exclude other much more likely falcons, accipiters, or buteos.

**California Gull:** A bird (*IBL* 57:56), apparently an adult, was observed for 55 minutes and described in considerable detail by one observer. The committee felt that the identification was probably correct for this species, which is long overdue to be found in Iowa. More details on the shape of the bird, length of legs, and bill size would have helped. The black spot on the bill seemed to be out of place. After an original split vote and re-review, the committee was nearly unanimous in deciding that a sight record by a single observer for a species that is new to the state and difficult to identify should be beyond any doubt.

**Thayer's Gull:** A series of five nearly identical documentations of first-year birds at Saylorville Res. in Nov-Dec (*IBL* 57:17, 56) submitted several months late without inclusion of original field notes, and purporting to determine the number of birds present, befuddled the committee. Concern was also expressed about birds with lighter heads or with chocolate brown coloration being Herring Gulls. Reports of a first-year bird at Saylorville on 3 Dec (*IBL* 57:56) and an adult at Davenport on 24-25 Dec (*IBL* 57:56) were not described in enough detail for the committee to come to a firm conclusion.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** A possible immature documented at Red Rock Res. on 11 Dec (*IBL* 57:56) may have been the same bird seen there earlier, but details noted for a bird at a great distance were not sufficient for the committee to be sure.

**Black-billed Magpie:** An incomplete, delayed description from a person who is not a regular birder, and from an eastern Iowa location, left some doubt about this easily identified species.

## FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1987

ROBERT K. MYERS

### WEATHER

Spring 1987 was, in general, warm and dry, continuing a pattern begun in December 1986. March and April were unseasonably warm with but a few cold days recorded during each month. Precipitation in March was nearly 50 percent above normal, with record amounts recorded in the Northwest (e.g., 5.9 inches at Sioux City). Late March snows amounted to 16 inches at Logan, 15 inches at Denison, and 12 inches at Poca-hontas and Castana. Southeast Iowa experienced little or no snow throughout the period. April was unusually warm, dry, and sunny, as was May until late in the month when record rains struck southeast Iowa with catastrophic results. The East and West Nishnabotna rivers and their tributaries flowed well over flood stage as rains deposited up to 5 inches in a twenty-four hour period. Subsequent rains of over 7 inches on 26 May added to the misery. Page, Fremont, Montgomery, and Mills counties were declared disaster areas by the Governor. (Weather data prepared by Jim Sandrock.)



### GENERAL TRENDS

Hot, dry, and windy spring weather produced many comments like "worst migration in years", "no warblers at all", and "what happened to the migrants?" The lack-luster showing by many of our migrants can probably be traced to the lack of weather fronts moving across the state during peak migration times. These fronts will typically bunch up the migrants and hold them down where birders can find them. The warm spring also caused trees to leaf out very early. Add hot, windy days to fully leafed trees and throw in scattered migrants and you have a recipe for very difficult birding.

Not all contributors were complaining, however. Francis Moore found 24 species of warblers on 14 May, and Jim Sinclair reported 21 warblers on 11 May. These were excellent tallies for this spring. Several observers commented that their year lists were actually of normal numbers to the end of May but were represented by fewer individuals.

### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

While many of us were yawning and complaining about the ho-hum spring, there were some birders out there finding some very interesting birds. Five accidental species were reported: Barrow's Goldeneye, Mississippi Kite, Black Rail, Great Black-backed Gull, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow. Reports of accidentals have been referred to the Records Committee for evaluation. Casual species included Red-necked Grebe, Whimbrel, Black-legged Kittiwake, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Great-tailed Grackle, and House Finch. Other rare but regular species reported included Western Grebe, Snowy Egret, Cinnamon Teal, Oldsquaw, Peregrine

Falcon, Yellow Rail, King Rail, Sandhill Crane, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Smith's Longspur.

## SPECIES DATA

\* = documented

**Common Loon:** 1 at Red Rock Res. on 8 Mar (JSi) is a record early date. Others were early on 26 Mar with 1 at Little Wall L. (BPr) and 3 in Appanoose Co. on 26 Mar (RLC). The last was 1 at Rathbun Res. on 31 May (TNJ).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** The first were in Lucas Co. on 7 Mar (JSi) and at Cone M. on 8 Mar (PW).

**Horned Grebe:** The first report was 1 at New Lake, Woodbury Co., on 27 Mar (\*BL). The peak was 14 at Cedar L. on 4 Apr (TJS). Others were 6 at Pickrel L. on 14 Apr (MMB), 3 in Iowa Co. on 15 Apr (CJB), and 1 at IPL Ponds on 18 Apr (BP, LPa).

**Red-necked Grebe:** The only report was 1 at Sweet Marsh on 12 May (\*THK, \*FLM). This is the third latest record.

**Eared Grebe:** All reports were of 1 or 2 birds and were from C and W Iowa. The first was 1 at Hendrickson M. on 23 Mar (NaK). The last was 1 at New Lake on 31 May (FLM, RKM, THK).

**Western Grebe:** 2 at Marble L. on 8 May (MMB) was the only report.

**American White Pelican:** 6 at Runnells G.A. on 14 Mar (JSi) are the third earliest. All other reports were between 15 and 23 Apr with peaks of 90 at L. Manawa on 15 Apr (TB) and 100 at Ventura M. on 17 Apr (Dawn Strait fide JLH).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** The first was 1 at Otter Creek M. on 7 Apr (PW). The peak was 100 at Otter Creek M. on 16 Apr (NAK). The last report was of 6 at Sioux Center on 14 May (JV). The peak of 900 at Red Rock (IBL 57:14) was on 26 Oct, not 14 Oct 1986.

**American Bittern:** Seven reports of 1 to 4 birds were received from all over Iowa; 1 in Lee Co. on 28 Mar (RCE) is a second early date. One was also early at Otter Creek M. on 16 Apr (JF).

**Least Bittern:** 1 was at Otter Creek M. on 10 May (THK). Another was reported at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 16 May (PCP). The last report was 1 at Forney L. on 31 May (BP, LPa).

**Great Blue Heron:** 1 at Coralville Res. on 2 Mar (PW) was the first; 1 was also early at Princeton M. on 6 Mar (PCP). The rookery just south of Saylorville Res. had 20 active nests in May (RKM).

**Great Egret:** 1 near State Center on 4 Apr (HZ) was the first. Peaks were 11 at Hendrickson M. on 12 Apr (PM, MPr) and 9 at Coralville Res. on 10 May (THK).

**Snowy Egret:** Details were supplied for 1 near Albion on 20 Apr (MPr) and for 1 in Fremont Co. on 27 Apr (TB, BP, LPa).

**Little Blue Heron:** The first report was 1 at Otter Creek M. on 19 Apr (PCP). Others were 1 in Fremont Co. on 25 Apr (BP, LPa), 3 at Otter Creek M. on 25 Apr (JF), 2 in Fremont Co. on 2 May (TB), and 1 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 23 May (PCP).

**Cattle Egret:** 11 reports were received, usually of 1 to 3 birds. The first was 1 near Iowa City on 18 Apr (JF); the peak was 6 in Fremont Co. on 27 Apr (TB); and the last was 3 at Rathbun Res. on 14 May (TNJ). The peak of 71 on 2 Aug 1986, at Forney L. (IBL 57:14) was actually 45 near Forney L. and 26 at Council Bluffs.

**Green-backed Heron:** The only report was 1 near Marshalltown on 23 Apr (MPr). Are we just not reporting this little heron or is it becoming difficult to find?

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Many reports were received. The first was 1 at Cone M. on 9 Apr (PCP). The peak and last report was of a rookery containing 25 pairs at Jemerson Sl. on 28 May (DCH).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** The first report was of 3 from Fremont Co. on 27 Apr (TB). Others were 2 at Cone M. on 10 May (THK, FLM), 1 at Otter Creek M. on 10 May (THK, FLM), and 1 in Dallas Co. on 20 May (MPr). Up to 6 were seen throughout May near Saylorville Res. (RKM).

**Ibis Species:** After a banner year in 1986, including nesting, no reports were received this spring.

**Tundra Swan:** All reported sightings were from 31 Mar to 7 Apr in C and E Iowa. The peak was 70 at Pool 9, Allamakee Co., on 4 Apr (FL).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Three reports were from E Iowa: 10 at Cone M. on 12 Mar (JF); 1 at Princeton M. on 4 Apr (PCP), and 1 in Appanoose Co. on 26 Apr (RLC).

**Snow Goose:** Only two reports: 300 at Rathbun Res. on 6 Mar (TNJ), and 4 still in Woodbury Co. on 31 May (RKM).

**Ross' Goose:** 1 was seen in Cherokee from 28 Apr to 4 May (\*DBi, MMB).

**Wood Duck:** The largest number was 63 in Iowa Co. on 3 Apr (CJB).

**Green-winged Teal:** The first and peak was 230 at Cone M. on 20 Mar (TJS).

**American Black Duck:** 2 were at Hendrickson M. on 4 Mar (MPR), and 2 were at Cone M. on 8 Mar (PW).

**Northern Pintail:** Young hatched at Ventura M. on 31 May (JLH).

**Blue-winged Teal:** The first report was 1 at Otter Creek M. on 8 Mar (MPR).

**Cinnamon Teal:** 1 male was seen near Ventura M. from 25 Mar to 2 Apr (JLH). Another male was in Fremont Co. on 26 Apr (BJR, RKM).

**Northern Shoveler:** One brood and a second nest were found at McIntosh W.A. on 30 May (JLH).

**Gadwall:** The first reports were of 10 at Princeton M. on 6 Mar (PCP) and 20 at Cone M. on 8 Mar (PW); 1 was in Woodbury Co. on 29 May (THK).

**American Wigeon:** The first reports were 20 at Princeton M. on 6 Mar (PCP) and 1 at Cone M. on 8 Mar (PW); 1 was at Otter Creek M. on 4 May (NAK).

**Canvasback:** The peak count was 2,500 at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 20 Mar (DCH).

**Redhead:** The first report was 4 at Princeton M. on 6 Mar (PCP).

**Ring-necked Duck:** The first report was 1 at Princeton M. on 6 Mar (PCP). Several were still present in May as shown by 1 in Iowa Co. on 14 May (CJB) and 1 in Woodbury Co. on 29 May (THK).

**Greater Scaup:** The first were 8 at Liscomb on 4 Mar (\*MPR). Details were given for 1 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 10 Mar (PCP), 1 at Weise Sl. on 17 Mar (PCP), and 1 in Johnson Co. on 21 Apr (CJB).

**Oldsquaw:** Only reports were 1 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Mar (EuA) and 1 at Saylorville Res. on 5 Apr (RKM).

**White-winged Scoter:** 1 was at De Soto N.W.R. on 14 Mar (\*ASF).

**Common Goldeneye:** A male was still at Sweet M. on 12 and 14 May (THK, FLM, RKM).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** A report will be reviewed by the Records Committee.

**Hooded Merganser:** 1 was early at Otter Creek M. on 11 Mar (NAK). A female with 3 young was found at Otter Creek M. on 24 May (NAK). The peak was 9 in Appanoose Co. on 21 Mar (RLC).

**Common Merganser:** 2 were still at IPL Ponds on 9 May (TB).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** The most reported were 14 at Pickrel L. on 14 Apr (MMB) and 20 at L. Manawa on 15 Apr (TB); the last were at Coralville Res. on 7 May (JF).

**Ruddy Duck:** Peak was 45 at L. Manawa on 15 Apr (TB).

**Turkey Vulture:** 2 in Shimek F. on 5 Mar (JF) are a second earliest record; 1 in Warren Co. on 7 Mar (JSi) and 1 in Lee Co. on 7 Mar (\*CFP) are the third earliest.

**Osprey:** 7 of 8 reports were of single birds; the peak was 4 at Pine Lake S.P. on 21 Apr (MPR).

**Mississippi Kite:** A report has been referred to the Records Committee.

**Bald Eagle:** 11 reports received spanned all of Iowa. Peak count was 63 at L. Manawa on 2 Mar (BP<sub>a</sub>, LP<sub>a</sub>). Four including an adult on a nest were found at Pool 9 on 4 Apr (FL); 2 adults and 2 immatures were seen at a nest near Bellevue on 19 May (PCP).

**Northern Harrier:** There were several May sightings. A nest was found at Williams Prairie, Johnson Co. (Bud Gode fide THK); 2 found at Hayden Prairie on 25 May (FLM) also indicated probable nesting.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** The first report was 1 at Le Claire on 6 Mar (PCP). Peak count was 10 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 14 Apr (PCP). There were few reports.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 4 were found in three locations in Stevens F. on 12-14 Apr (DRe). All exhibited nesting behavior and 2 nests were found. Two were found at Waubonsie S.P. on 18 Apr (BP<sub>a</sub>, LP<sub>a</sub>), and 1 was at Boone Co. on 20 Apr (MPR).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 was seen at Credit Island on 10 and 11 May (PCP); and 1 was at Sweet M. on 12 May (THK, FLM). A late winter report was 2 at Coralville on 28 Feb (TJS).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** There were few reports: 4 were at Big Creek S.P. on 20 Apr (MPR) and 23 in Marshall Co. on 27 Apr (BPr).

**Swainson's Hawk:** The first report was 2 in Mills Co. on 17 Apr (BLW). Others included 2 at Big M. on 18 Apr (MPR), 1 at Riverton A. on 21 Apr (BP<sub>a</sub>, BJR), 2 in Lyon Co. on 30 Apr (DCH), and 2 in George Wyth S.P. at a nest on 12 May (THK, FLM).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** The last were 2 at Otter Creek M. on 12 Apr (NAK).

**American Kestrel:** 22 were found in 2.5 hrs. in Marshall Co. on 18 Mar (MPR). A partial albino was found in Marshall Co. on 11 Apr (MPR).

**Merlin:** 1 was early near Sioux Center on 27 Mar (\*JV). Other reports were 1, with details, at Otter Creek M. on 11 Apr (FLM), 1 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Apr (\*MPR), and 1 at Grammer Grove P. on 3 May (\*MPR).

**Peregrine Falcon:** 1 was reported with details near Cedar Rapids on 7 Mar (Bart Ballard fide SD). Two late reports were undocumented.

**Wild Turkey:** 11 were reported in Allamakee Co. on 4 Apr (FL).

**Northern Bobwhite:** Several reports were from NW Iowa: 5 were calling in W Sioux Co. on 2 May (JV) and 2 were in NW Lyon Co. on 27 May (DCH). One was found in Page Co. in early May incubating a nest containing 16 quail and 4 pheasant eggs (BLW).

**Yellow Rail:** The only report was 1 at Snake Creek M., Greene Co., on 5 May (RKM). Details were included.

**Black Rail:** A report is referred to Records Committee.

**King Rail:** 1 was heard at Otter Creek M. on 10 May (\*THK, FLM). Another was heard near Weise Sl. on 11 May (\*PCP).

**Virginia Rail:** 10 (1 adult and 9 young) were seen at Big Wall L. on 23 May (MPR).

**Sora:** The peak was 17 at the Marion St. M. in Marshalltown on 23 Apr (MPR).

**Common Moorhen:** 1 was at Princeton M. on 11 May (PCP); another was at Forney L. on 31 May (BP, LPA).

**American Coot:** 1 partially albino coot was first noted at Lakin Sl. on 28 Mar (RKM).

**Sandhill Crane:** 2 were reported from Ventura M. on 15 Apr (Ted LaGrange and Toobl Von Ehwegen fide JLH).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Most were seen between 11 May and 14 May. The peak was 25 in Ames on 12 May (ASF).

**Lesser Golden-Plover:** 1 at Runnells G.A. on 14 Mar (JSi) is a second earliest; 1 at Cone M. on 20 Mar (TJS) ties the third early date. The peak was 700 at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 11 May (PCP).

**Semipalmated Plover:** The first was at Amana L. on 21 Apr (CJB). The peak was 40 at Otter Creek M. on 17 May (NAK).

**Piping Plover:** IPL Ponds had 2 nests this spring (BLW); 1-3 were seen at Saylorville Res. during May (MPR, RKM). Several were seen at IPS Ponds near Sioux City throughout May (m.ob.). Three at IPL Ponds on 3 Aug 1986 (IBL 57:16) were actually seen on 2 Aug.

**Killdeer:** The first spring report was 55 at Cone M. on 4 Mar (TJS). A late winter report had 1 in Sioux Co. on 26 Feb (JV).

**American Avocet:** The only report was 1 at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 8 May (MMB).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** The first was at Runnells G.A. on 21 Mar (JSi).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** The first were 2 at Cone M. on 20 Mar (TJS). The peak was 1,500 at Riverton A. on 9 May (BP, LPA).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 4 were a little early in Marshalltown on 23 Apr (MPR).

**Willet:** 2 were at Amana L. on 26 Apr (THK, CJB), 1 was at Sweet M. on 12 May (THK), and 2 were at Clear L. on 6 May (Ted LaGrange fide JLH).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** The peak count was 12 in Iowa Co. on 14 May (CJB).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Eight reports listed 1 to 6 birds. The peak counts were 5 at South Amana on 6 May (JF) and 6 in Sioux Co. in mid-May (JV).

**Whimbrel:** 1 was in Fremont Co. on 25 and 26 Apr (\*MPR, RKM, BP, LPA, BJR-photos).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** The first report was 1 at Coralville Res. on 9 May (PW). The peak numbers were 17 at Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 16 May (MMB) and 15 at Bay's Branch on 11 May (JSi).

**Marbled Godwit:** The only report was 1 at Bay's Branch on 11 May (JSi).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** The first were 2 at Cone M. on 14 May (THK). The peak was 29 at Saylorville Res. on 31 May (EM).

**Sanderling:** The only reports were 1 at Saylorville Res. on 20 May (MPR) and 2 at Bay's Branch on 22 May (RKM). The peak of 49 on 11 Sep 1986 (IBL 57:16) was at Saylorville Res., not Big Creek L.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 10 were still in Plymouth Co. on 31 May (THK).

**Western Sandpiper:** Three reports were received with details: 2 at Otter Creek M. on 6 May (MPR), 1 at Credit Island on 15 May (PCP), and 2 at Credit Island on 19 May (PCP).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** The peak counts were only 10 at Credit Island on 15 May (PCP) and 10 at New Lake on 31 May (THK). This species is often reported by the 100's in SW Iowa.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Most reports were from mid-May. The first was 4 in Fremont Co. on 25 Apr (MPR). The peak was 35 at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 12 May (DCH).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 1 at Cone M. on 7 Mar (PW) is the third earliest. Others were early with 66 at Cone M. on 20 Mar (TJS) and 16 at Runnells W.A. on 21 Mar (JSi). The peak was 500 at Riverton A. on 9 May (BP, LPa).

**Dunlin:** All reports were from mid-May, but few were reported; three reports of singles plus one report of 8 at Cone M. on 11 May (JF) were all that were received.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** 1 was in Appanoose Co. on 16 May (RLC) and another at Credit Island on 17 May (PCP).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** None were reported.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 4 identified by call at McCausland on 30 Apr (PCP) are a third earliest record. The peak was 25 at Sweet M. on 12 May (THK). Almost all reports were supported by details.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Details were provided for 1 at Runnells on 26 Apr (JSi) and for 4 at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 9 May (JV).

**Common Snipe:** The first report was 18 at Cone M. on 22 Mar (THK). The peak was 40 at Otter Creek M. on 19 Apr (PCP).

**American Woodcock:** 2 at Willow Sl. on 1 Mar ties the second earliest date. Others were also early with 2 at Newton on 6 Mar (BPr) and 1 at Lansing W.A. on 7 Mar (FL). One was found on a nest at Nine Eagles S.P. on 20 Apr (Arlidine Nelson fide JDG).

**Willson's Phalarope:** No reports received.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** None reported.

**Franklin's Gull:** The peak was 20 at Little Wall L. on 20 Apr (MPr); 1 was still in Kossuth Co. on 29 May (RLC); and 18 were in E Pottawattamie Co. on 31 May (CJB, RJH, THK).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Details were given for 1 at Keokuk on 17 Mar (RCe), a second earliest record. Most were seen in early to mid-April, but the peak of 15 in Appanoose Co. was on 11 May (RLC). An immature on 11 Aug 1986 at Saylorville Res. (SD, MPr, MDx) was extremely early (addition to Fall 1986 Report).

**Ring-billed Gull:** 750 were reported from L. Manawa on 20 Mar (TB). The fall peak at Saylorville Res. (IBL 57:17) was 8,000, not 6,000.

**Herring Gull:** 1 at IPL Ponds on 9 May (TB) and 1 at Credit Island on 10 May (PCP) were somewhat late.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 1 immature was seen at Cone M. on 12 Mar (\*JF). Another was reported but not documented.

**Casplan Tern:** 11 were early at Coralville Res. on 29 Apr (JF). The peak was 22 at Saylorville Res. on 9 May (MPr).

**Common Tern:** Details were provided for 3 at Credit Island on 19 and 23 May (PCP) and for 3 at Sweet M. on 23 May (FLM).

**Forster's Tern:** 2 at Cedar L. on 10 Apr (PW) provide the second earliest date; 100 were reported from Jemmerson Sl. on 28 May (DCH) with some nesting. The peak of 82 at Saylorville Res. (IBL 57:18) was on 24 Aug 1986, not 22 Aug.

**Least Tern:** 3 pairs were back at IPL Ponds this spring; 1 was seen at New Lake, Woodbury Co. on 31 May (RKM).

**Black Tern:** The first was at Cone M. on 3 May (THK).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** The first was at Hickory Hill P. on 10 May (JF); 3 were seen at Sioux Center on 30 May (JV).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Only 2 reports received: 2 in Marshall Co. on 19 May (BPr) and 1 at Ledges S.P. on 20 May (MPr).

**Common Barn-Owl:** Details were provided for 1 in Sioux City on 12 Apr (DET).

**Long-eared Owl:** 2 were found in Marshall Co. on 1 Mar (MPr); 1 was still present on 8 Apr (MPr).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 1 was at Pine Lake S.P. on 3 Mar (MPr) and another stayed at Hickory Hill P. until 9 Apr (JF).

**Common Nighthawk:** The first of season were on 4 May with 3 at Otter Creek M. (NAK) and 1 in Keokuk (John Cecil fide RCe).

**Chuck-will's-Widow:** Birds were back in their usual SW Iowa areas with 1 in Fremont Co. on 9 May (TB).

**Chimney Swift:** The first were 10 at Belle Plaine on 19 Apr (PCP).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Cecil reported that many were seen this spring with peak of 8 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 12 Apr.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 1 was found in Marshall Co. on 14 Mar (MPr) and another was in Benton Co. on 12 May (THK). A dead, pin-feathered young of this species was found along

Mississippi R. in SE Iowa on 28 Mar (RCe). This would indicate they can be very early nesters.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 4 reports of single birds were from C Iowa between 13 and 22 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Details described 1 on 25 May, 2 on 27 May, and 1 on 30 May at Brookside P. (PM).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** 2 were found at Shimek S.F. on 7 May (RCe) and several were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 13 May (JF).

**Alder Flycatcher:** 14 were identified by call from C and E Iowa between 18 and 29 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** The first was 1 at Brookside P. on 2 May (PM).

**Eastern Phoebe:** Several were quite early with 1 in Ames on 19 Mar (EM) and 3 at Pine Lake S.P. on 24 Mar (MPR).

**Western Kingbird:** 1 was near Quimby on 23 May (MMB). Several were found in and around Sioux City at the Spring I.O.U. meeting on 29-31 May (RKM).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** Details were received for 1 in Boone Co. on 17 May (DRe).

**Purple Martin:** Several reports suggested they were somewhat later than usual this spring.

**Tree Swallow:** 1 was quite early at Coralville Res. on 21 Mar (FLM, THK). Others were also early with 20 at Lock 13 on 27 Mar (PCP) and 1 at Cone M. on 27 Mar (PW).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** A peak of 100 was at Otter Creek M. on 4 May (NAK).

**Cliff Swallow:** 20 arrived in Iowa City on 28 Apr (RJH).

**Barn Swallow:** The first was in Poweshiek Co. on 1 Apr (CJB).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 1 wintering bird was still at an Iowa City feeder on 15 Apr (JF). The last report was 1 in Marshall Co. on 6 May (BPR).

**Brown Creeper:** 1 was acting territorial in Des Moines Co. on 14 May (PCP).

**Carolina Wren:** 1 was at Iowa City on 19 Mar (THK); 1 was at Lacey-Keosauqua on 11 Apr (JPS, RCe); and 1 was in Shimek F. on 16 Apr (RCe).

**Winter Wren:** 12 birds were reported from eight locations, beginning on 21 Mar. One at Wildcat Den S.P. on 15 May (PCP) is a record late date for a migrant.

**Sedge Wren:** The only report was of 4 at Ventura M. on 5 May (JLH).

**Marsh Wren:** 2 were at Otter Creek on 28 Apr (NAK).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Details were supplied for 1 in Linn Co. on 12 May (PW), the second latest date.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 1 at Shimek F. on 22 Mar (RCe) ties the second early record.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** A bird at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 11 Apr (JPS, RCe) is a third earliest record; 2 were building a nest at Wildcat Den S.P. on 26 Apr (PCP).

**Eastern Bluebird:** Several observers thought nesting was up this spring. Brewer had 20 of 75 boxes with either eggs or fledged young and Bierman had 45 young fledge.

**Townsend's Solitaire:** 1 was at Milford from 7 Feb to 18 Apr (JOr--photos, DCH, \*LvF).

**Veery:** The first was at Brookside P. on 4 May (PM).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 2 were noted in Marshall Co. on 3 May (MPR). Several reports suggested a good migration for this species.

**Swainson's Thrush:** 2 April reports were undocumented. The peak was 13 at Brookside P. on 15 May and the last was there on 31 May (PM).

**Hermite Thrush:** The first was in Appanoose Co. on 12 Apr (RLC).

**Wood Thrush:** The first was in Amana Woods on 30 Apr (CJB).

**American Robin:** 350 were noted in Iowa Co. on 4 Apr (THK). One carrying nesting material in Iowa City on 10 Apr (RJH) may have been an early nester. Many robins died as a result of the blizzard in SW Iowa on 28 Mar (BLW).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Reported from Madison, Boone, Van Buren, Louisa, Appanoose, and Page counties.

**Brown Thrasher:** 1 at Shimek F. on 4 Apr is the second earliest.

**Water Pipit:** 1 was at Cone M. on 10 May (THK, FLM) and 4 were there on 11 May (JF). The peak at Big Wall L. on 25 Oct 1986 (IBL 57:19) was actually 71 birds, not 17.

**Cedar Waxwing:** 52 were seen near Larrabee on 28 May (MMB).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** The first report was 1 at Red Rock Res. on 8 Mar (JSi); 13 others were seen across Iowa. Three birds and 2 nests were found in Plymouth Co. on 31 May (THK).

**White-eyed Vireo:** 7 reports contained this species. A few were north of their normal range with 1 at Sweet M. on 12 May (THK, FLM) and 1 at Clear Lake on 31 May (JLH).

**Bell's Vireo:** Reported in good numbers from C, SW, and NW Iowa.

**Solitary Vireo:** The peak of 26 in Ames (IBL 57:20) was on 30 Sep, not 30 Aug.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 1 banded at Shimek F. on 20 Apr (RCe) is the record earliest. Another was early at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 25 Apr (JPS).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 8 of the 10 reported this spring were found on 2-3 May. The other 2 were on 5 and 10 May.

**Tennessee Warbler:** The first were 4 at Brookside P. on 2 May (PM) with the peak of 73 there on 11 May (PM); 1 was still singing in Woodbury Co. on 30 May (RKM).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first was at Brookside P. on 23 Apr (PM); the peak at Brookside P. was 11 on 5 May (PM).

**Nashville Warbler:** 1 at Shimek F. on 20 Apr (RCe) is the second earliest. Others were early with 1 at Brookside P. in Ames on 26 Apr (PM) and 1 at Pine Lake S.P. on 28 Apr (MPr). The peak was 29 at Brookside P. on 2 May (PM).

**Northern Parula:** 9 were the first and peak at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 17 Apr (JPS); 1 was at Waubonsie S.P. on 9 May (TB).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 2 were at Brookside P. on 4 May, with peak of 8 there on 25 May (PM).

**Cape May Warbler:** All reports: 1 at Credit Island on 11 May (PCP), 1 at Ledges S.P. on 11 May (JSi), and 1 at Sweet M. on 14 May (FLM, RKM).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** The only report was of a singing male at George Wyth S.P. on 12 May (FLM).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** This species was somewhat late arriving this year. The first were 17 at Shimek F. on 10 Apr (RCe), and the peak was 63 at Brookside P. on 4 May (PM).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 1 was at Shimek F. on 22 Apr (RCe).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Only 4 were reported—all in May. Several observers remarked on their scarcity.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** While birds were back in their traditional Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Ledges S.P., Walnut Wood S.P., and Van Buren Co. homes, several observers thought their numbers were down. The first report was of 5 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 17 Apr (JPS).

**Pine Warbler:** The only report received was not legible. Neatness does count! One found dead at Alleman on 4 Oct 1986 is now a specimen at Iowa State University (SD).

**Palm Warbler:** Good numbers appeared in early May with 14 at Marshalltown on 4 May (MPr).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** This was a hard warbler to come by this spring. A total of 4 were counted at Brookside S.P. from 9 to 23 May (PM). The only other report was 1 at Amana Woods on 10 May (FLM, THK).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** 1 was early at George Wyth S.P. on 2 May (FLM); the peak was 5 at Brookside S.P. on 11 May (PM). A report of 1 on 21 Aug 1986 in Des Moines (IBL 57:21) was submitted by (SD).

**Cerulean Warbler:** 10 were reported from five SW, SE, C, and EC locations beginning on 3 May.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** The first was at Brookside P. on 20 Apr (PM).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** The peak was 12 in Des Moines Co. on 14 May (PCP).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** All reports: 1 at Weise Sl. on 11 May (PCP), 1 at Saylorville Res. on 15 May (RKM), and 2 at Shimek F. on 25 May (RCe).

**Ovenbird:** 3 were a little early at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 26 Apr (JPS).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 2 were at Shimek F. on 8 Apr (RCe). Reports were received from the usual spots such as Ledges S.P. and from new locales such as Stephens F.

**Kentucky Warbler:** Reports were from Waubonsie S.P. on 9 May (TB), Ledges S.P. on 13 May (MPr), and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 13 May (JF).

**Connecticut Warbler:** All reports: 1 at Sweet M. on 14 May (FLM, RKM), 1 in Marshall Co. on 15 May (BPr), 1 at Ledges S.P. on 20 May (MPr), and 1 at Hickory Hill P. on 20 May (TJS).

**Mourning Warbler:** This species was present in good numbers beginning on 9 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** Singles were at Hickory Hill P., on 10-11 May (JF, CJB), Ledges S.P. on 11 May (RKM), and Davenport on 11 May (AB).

**Wilson's Warbler:** While none were reported, the species was present in C. Iowa areas in good numbers in mid-May (RKM).

**Canada Warbler:** Very few were reported.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** 1 was early in Shimek F. on 5 May (RCe); 9 others were reported throughout May mostly from southern locations.

**Summer Tanager:** Other than the normal SE Iowa locations, singles were in Greene Co. on 8 May (RKM), at Hickory Hill P. on 17 May (\*TMS), and at Woodland Mounds, Warren Co., on 23 May (JSi).

**Scarlet Tanager:** The first was at Amana Woods on 30 Apr (CJB); the peak was 8 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 8 May (JPS).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** The first was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 25 Apr (JPS).

**Blue Grosbeak:** All reports were from counties on the W Iowa border.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** The first was at Brookside P. on 29 Apr (PM); the peak was 6 at Hickory Hill P. on 3 May (CJB).

**Field Sparrow:** The first were 3 at Lansing W.A. on 4 Apr (FL).

**Vesper Sparrow:** The first were 1 in Johnson Co. on 5 Apr (THK) and 2 at L. Manawa on 15 Apr (TB).

**Lark Sparrow:** The peak was 8 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 23 May (PCP).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** The first were 5 at Cone M. on 11 Apr (PW). Other reports were 3 at Doolittle Prairie on 29 Apr (MPR) and 2 at Cone M. on 3 May (THK).

**Fox Sparrow:** Only a few were mentioned. Two at Saylorville Res. (IBL 57:22) were on 27 Sep 1986, not 29 Sep.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 1 at Riverton A. on 28 Mar (Dan Nivens fide SD) is record early date; 2 were also early (third early date) at Lost Nation on 12 Apr (PCP). A peak of 50 was counted at Dunbar Sl. on 1 May (RKM).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 1 was still at Otter Creek M. on 18 May (NAK), and another remained in Appanoose Co. on 16 May (RLC).

**Harris' Sparrow:** The peak was only 3 at Ledges S.P. on 2 May (MPR).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 260 at Hickory Hill P. on 8 Apr (TJS) may reflect a migration peak.

**Lapland Longspur:** Several large flocks were noted: 2,000 in Marshall Co. on 15-22 Mar (MPR), 1,000 at Cone M. on 27 Mar (PW), and 2,000 in Iowa Co. on 4 Apr (THK).

**Smith's Longspur:** Up to 300 were at Cone M. between 31 Mar and 15 Apr (PW, JF, THK, CJB, PCP, \*MPR). Others reported with details were 6 near Dysart on 14 Mar (FLM), 1 in Iowa Co. on 4 Apr (THK), and 12 near Bay's Branch on 17 Apr (RKM).

**Snow Bunting:** 1 was at Sweet M. on 7 Mar (FLM).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 100,000 in Lee Co. on 22 Mar was considered a conservative estimate (RCE).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 10 were at Otter Creek M. by 26 Apr (CJB). At least 75 were at Goose Lake, Clinton Co., on 11 May (PCP).

**Rusty Blackbird:** Two reports were received: 10 at Cone M. on 5 Apr (CJB) and 100 at Princeton M. on 6 Apr (PCP).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Details were given for 3 at Hickory Hill P. on 4 Mar (JPS) and for 3 at Cone M. on 20 Mar (TJS).

**Common Grackle:** An estimated 200,000 were in Lee Co. on 22 Mar (RCE).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 1 fledged from a bluebird box with 1 young bluebird in Mills Co. on 1 May (BLW).

**Northern Oriole:** 1 in Iowa City on 19 Apr (PCP) is a record earliest. Another was also early in Ames on 27 Apr (PC).

**Purple Finch:** 20 were in Liscomb on 8 Apr (MPR) and 3 were at Waubonsie S.P. on 21 Apr (BP, BJR).

**House Finch:** Details were provided for 1 in Iowa City on 3 Mar (RJH) and another there on 29-30 Mar (JF); 7 in Davenport on 2 May (PCP) consisted of adults and young in or near a nest; 2 were in Linn Co. on 17-18 May (PW).

**Red Crossbill:** The two reports were of 2 in Dallas Co. on 26 Mar (RKM) and 15 in Ames on 18 May (EM).

**Common Redpoll:** 1 was still in Davenport on 6 Mar (PCP).

**Pine Siskin:** Reports were received from all over Iowa of birds still present in May. The last was of 1 in Sioux City on 30 May (RJH).

**American Goldfinch:** 61 were at the feeders in Mills Co. on 9 Mar (BLW).

**Evening Grosbeak:** 1 was at Marshalltown on 4 May (Betty Savage fide BPR).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** 2 in West Branch from 16 Mar to the second week of April (\*SV, \*CJB, \*THK, \*JPS, \*JF, \*PCP, \*TJS, \*FLM) are the first reported in Iowa.

## CONTRIBUTORS (\* = documentation only)

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## COMMENT

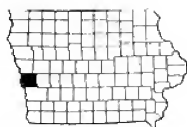
I would like to thank all contributors for their excellent reports this spring. Well written reports make the compilation much easier. Potential problems with field reports might be alleviated by considering some basic guidelines:

1. Reports must be complete--a sighting must include species name, location, date of observation, number of birds, and name of observer. Incomplete reports usually cannot be used.
2. Species must be listed in correct taxonomic order.
3. Species requiring documentation or details must have this included if the sighting is to be used.
4. The report must be legible. If I can't read it, I won't use it.
5. The report must be mailed to the proper editor on time. For example, reports received after June 7 this spring were not included. This may seem strict but the time schedule for the article is tight and a deadline is needed.

Almost all contributors follow these guidelines. By working together we can produce a substantiated, accurate record of Iowa's birdlife.

## EIDERS IN IOWA

THOMAS H. KENT



Two of the four species of eider ducks occur as vagrants in the Midwest. The Common Eider nests along the coasts of North America south to New England and Alaska. It has little tendency to migrate south (no California records, rarely to Maryland, accidentally to Florida) or inland (it prefers salt water). The King Eider nests across the arctic circle and along Hudson Bay. In winter it has a tendency to stray further south, as far as southern California, Florida, and the Great Lakes. King Eiders have a less strong preference for salt water. Midwest birds of both species are almost always immatures and are thought to reach the Midwest from Hudson and James Bays.

Adult male Common and King Eiders are striking birds that are easy to identify. Females and immatures are drab and difficult to identify. In this article I will present two King Eiders that occurred in Iowa in the fall of 1985, discuss identification problems, and review the occurrence of eiders in the Midwest. Two more King Eiders are reported in this issue (Hansen 1987).

### TWO EIDERS AT DE SOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, FALL 1985

From 10 to 24 November 1985, two immature eiders were present at Lakeview Area of De Soto National Wildlife Refuge on a backwater that forms the Iowa/Nebraska border. By advanced arrangement, birders were allowed into the refuge area to study the rare ducks. Five documentations identified the birds as Common Eider, three as King Eider, and one as one bird of each species. Francis Moore and I observed the birds from 8:35 a.m. to noon on 15 November. The birds had been reported to us as Common Eiders, but we left convinced that they were Kings. The two birds were feeding in the backwater, often together, where they would raise their wings, kick their feet, and dive in unison in typical eider fashion. Both birds were overall brown, quite plain, and larger than nearby Mallards and a White-winged Scoter. The darker bird (male) had a two-toned face, an indistinct crescent over the eye, an oblique line running from the back of the eye down the neck, dark bill, and lighter plain buff-brown breast. The second bird (presumed female) was slightly lighter brown and grayer, lacked the line down the neck, and the breast color was similar to the rest of the bird. These birds lacked the heavy black marks on the body that characterize adult female eiders. We noted two faint gray wingbars and white axillaries when the birds raised their wings. We spent a long time trying to judge the head profile and bill features. We tried to determine how far feathering extended down the top of the culmen and down the side of the face toward the nostril, but the similar color of the bill and facial feathers, and the activity of the birds (diving), made it difficult to judge these field marks. The culmen appeared rather straight with slight bulge at the forehead and slightly upturned bill at the tip. Our identification of these birds as King Eiders was based almost entirely on the head and bill shape, rather subjective judgments. I took photos using a 1500 mm lens and 1000 speed ASA color film that show the profile (Figure 1). B. J. Rose also photographed these birds (Anonymous 1986).



Fig. 1. Eiders at De Soto N.W.R., 15 November 1985. Photos by T. H. Kent.

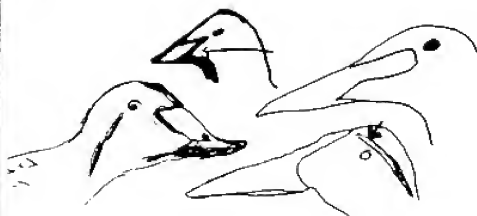


Fig. 2. Four drawings of the eiders submitted with documentations.

During the ensuing months there was extensive discussion, research, and consultation on this sighting. The documentations included some conflicting observations. Most thought there were no or indistinct markings on the body, but one mentioned straight marks suggesting Common Eider and another crescent-shaped marks suggesting King Eider. Descriptions of the head included the following: "sloping, resembling a Canvasback", "wedge-shaped heads with long-straight-sloping forehead almost like Canvasback", "forehead was sloping down toward the tip of the bill but had an upswing near the tip about 3/4 of the way down", and "very straight culmen with tip of bill turned upward; the forehead is straight or sticks out a little." The four drawings that were submitted (Figure 2) illustrate varying perceptions of the birds' head shape. Independently, B. J. Rose sent color photographs to two well-recognized experts; they were later shown to a large group of experts in Alaska.

On first evaluation, the I.O.U. Records Committee failed to reach a conclusion about these birds. The regional editor for *American Birds*, Bruce Peterjohn wrote (letter to author), "the photos clearly show their head shape which positively identifies both as Kings." Thede Tobish, a leading Alaska expert, wrote (letter to B. J. Rose), "I would like to read field descriptions of both birds to more comfortably assess these records. I currently feel both birds to be King Eiders." He was more firm about this opinion during the later discussions in Alaska. Noble Proctor, a world expert from Connecticut, wrote (letter to B. J. Rose), "Although it seems implausible, it almost appears that you have two eiders of two species! I have looked at them a number of times and can only draw these conclusions from what I can make out from the photos." The I.O.U. Records Committee eventually accepted both as King Eiders.

## IDENTIFICATION OF KING AND COMMON EIDERS

Eiders are large ducks that are recognized by their size, shape, and diving habits. Identification begins with determining the sex and age of the bird. One look at a field guide will confirm the identity of adult males, but the chances of seeing one of these in Iowa is remote. Adult females are distinguished by head shape, bill features, and body markings. Head and bill

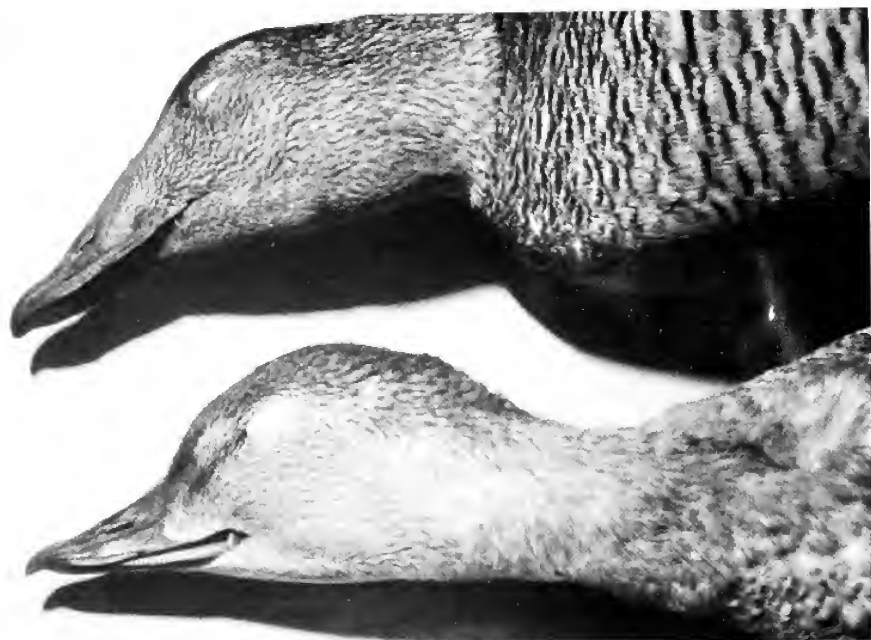


Fig. 3. Adult female Common Eider in Breeding Plumage (top) compared with immature first-winter female King Eider shot in Louisa Co., Iowa, on 8 November 1970. Specimens at University of Iowa.



Fig. 4. Adult King Eiders in breeding plumage.



Fig. 5. Adult female Common Eider.

are similar to immatures (see below). Adult females of both species have strong black body markings, straight in the Common, crescent-shaped in the King (Figures 3-5).

Immatures lack the strong markings of adults, although body markings may be useful for birds in the hand (Figure 6). First-year birds are in juvenal plumage into late fall, when they molt to first basic plumage and differences in the sexes become evident. In first basic plumage, males of both species become lighter on the breast than females. As fall progresses, male Common Eiders develop barring on the flanks and male King Eiders develop a distinctive light colored bill. The timing of these changes may be variable, but the light bill of the first-year King Eider should be evident by



*Fig. 6. Immature female King Eider shot by John Goecke at Ingham Lake, Emmet County, Iowa, on 7 November 1971. Photo by Kenneth Formanek. Date on photo differs from that previously reported (Petersen 1972).*

mid-winter. Most observers agreed that the two De Soto birds were male and female, the male having a light breast and more pronounced facial features, but not a light bill.

Males attain full adult plumage in the fourth winter. It is difficult to get a clear picture of what second and third winter males look like. In general, immature males of both Common and King eiders have brown heads, dark

bodies, and white breasts. The male shot by Hansen at Clear Lake (reported in this issue) would appear to be at least a second winter bird—its body and wing feathers are almost black, the breast is white, the head is quite dark, and the bill is very pale colored. I have seen immature Common Eiders in the Aleutian Islands in May that have a similar appearance at a distance. A detailed description of eider plumages is given by Palmer (1976).

Although it is important to determine the age and sex before identifying an eider as to species, the head profile and feathering in relation to the bill are constant and useful features for immatures and females. King Eiders have a rounded head, slight bump at the forehead, thin bill tip, and centrally placed eye (Figures 1, 3, 4, 6; also see Hansen 1987). Common Eiders have a very pronounced straight forehead, heavy bill tip, and eye near the top of the head (Figures 3, 5). When seen head on, King Eiders have a bifurcated upper mandible with feather extending down the culmen for some distance (Figure 4; see also Hansen 1987). This feature is easily seen on specimens, but is hard to see in the field. From the side, the feathering between the upper and lower mandibles extends into the upper mandible nearly to the nostril in the Common Eider, but not as far in the King (Figures 3, 4, 5, 6; also see Hansen 1987).

#### EIDERS IN THE MIDWEST

King Eiders reported in this issue provide the fifth and sixth substantiated records for Iowa. The previous records have been reviewed (Newlon and Kent 1981, Dinsmore et al. 1984). A previously unpublished photograph of one of these records was found in the I.O.U files (Figure 6). All of the birds were first seen between 7 and 18 November. These records comprise six specimens and two photographed birds. Five birds were immature males and three were apparently immature females. There is also one unsubstantiated sight record (Dinsmore et al. 1984).

I reviewed records of eiders in the Midwest as published in books covering bird distribution in nearby states and as bold-faced in *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds*. King Eiders are seen in the Midwest in most years (average 2 to 3 sightings per year); two-thirds occur in November and December; and two-thirds are on the Great Lakes. A few arrive by late October and some are found in winter and early spring.

The occurrence of Common Eider in Iowa is less well substantiated. A mounted specimen, now lost, was of an apparent female taken south of Sioux City on 1 November 1901. The specimen was examined by an expert and determined to be a Common Eider based on bill characteristics (DuMont 1934). Three other records of this species (Musgrove and Musgrove 1977) are unsubstantiated.

In reviewing Midwest records, I was surprised to find that there were more than half as many Common Eiders as compared to Kings. Without an exhaustive effort to track down details of these records, it is difficult to be sure how many might be misidentified. At least two of the Iowa specimens of King Eider were initially misidentified. The Common Eider records have a seasonal and geographic distribution similar to those of the King Eider.

It is likely that King Eider occurs much more frequently in Iowa than the few records indicate. The likelihood of Common Eider occurring in Iowa is much more difficult to judge. The identification of immature eiders is diffi-

cult, but not impossible, particularly if they can be observed at close range and photographed or specimens can be obtained. Eiders that are shot in the fall by hunters should be preserved in their entirety and saved for study. If this is not possible, they should be photographed from all angles and sexed.

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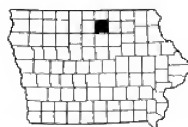
211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52240



*Immature male King Eider, Clear Lake, 8 November 1986. Photo by J. L. Hansen.*

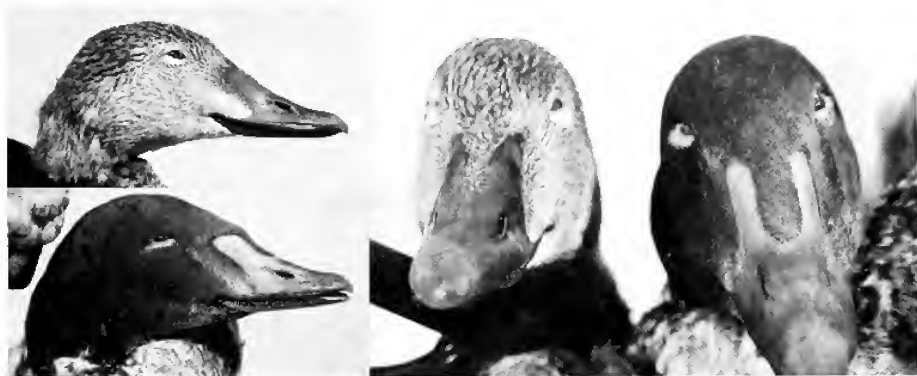
## KING EIDERS AT CLEAR LAKE

JAMES L. HANSEN



On 17 November 1986, I was duck hunting on the west end of Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County, with Rick Poole and Ron Glanville. A very strong, early cold front had hit northern Iowa on 8 November, and for the next week temperatures were as much as 30 degrees below normal. Area marshes were frozen on 10 November, and Clear Lake froze over on 13 November, except for the small hole at the end of the sandbar where we had our decoys and the two small holes at the other end of the lake. The ice was already two to three inches thick on the day of our hunt. Late in the morning we saw a flock of four ducks flying a few feet over the ice toward us. As they got closer, I knew that they were not ducks that I was accustomed to seeing. I thought of scoters or eiders. We killed 2 of the 4 ducks, and the two survivors must have left Clear Lake due to lack of open water. We identified the ducks as eiders, and they were later found to be King Eiders, based on reference books and consultation with Jim Dinsmore at Iowa State University. In contrast to Common Eider, the feathering on top of the bill of King Eider extends nearly to the nostril, while feathers on the sides of the bill do not come as close to the nostril as on the Common Eider. One of the birds was a second-year male and is preserved at Iowa State University. The other bird had the appearance of a female. The head was preserved.

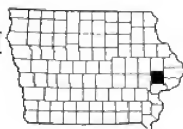
103 South 17th St., Clear Lake, IA 50428



*Immature King Eider specimens taken at Clear Lake, 8 November 1986. Note feather extension on culmen, distance of nostril from facial feathers, and head profile. Photos by J. J. Dinsmore.*

## EURASIAN TREE SPARROW AT WEST BRANCH

SALLY VEAL



I first observed two Eurasian Tree Sparrows in my back yard in West Branch about 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 14, 1987. As I was filling my bird feeders I noticed two birds in the silver maple behind the house that at first glance appeared to be House Sparrows. They had a neat appearance, were more active than House Sparrows, and were not associating with the flock of House Sparrows near the bird feeders. Even without binoculars I was able to see the black spots on the birds' faces. I did not see them again until about noon. At that time I was able to observe the birds through binoculars and identify them as Eurasian Tree Sparrows. I could clearly see the black spots on the cheeks, the brown caps and small black bibs of each bird.

The birds spent most of the afternoon close to the house. They investigated the hollow crossbar on my clothesline post. Eventually one bird was able to squeeze inside the post. (The slightly larger House Sparrows have attempted this but were never successful.) This bird spent much of the time inside the post. The other bird looked inside but did not try to move in. It fed in a weedy patch nearby and also picked up seeds that had fallen from my thistle feeder. Occasionally it would peek inside the post at the first bird. At one point in the afternoon both birds flew upward from the clothesline post. They faced each other either touching or nearly touching as they fluttered up about ten feet above the post. They then separated and chased each other for about thirty feet while flying very close to the ground. After this activity one bird returned to the inside of the post and remained there for most of the afternoon while the other bird fed nearby. The bird in the post was harassed by three female House Sparrows that tried to squeeze inside. It pecked at the House Sparrows but did not give up its position, and the House Sparrows eventually left it alone.

512 East Orange St., West Branch, IA 52358



*Eurasian Tree Sparrow, West Branch, 21 March 1987. Photo by P. C. Petersen.*

## I.O.U. BUSINESS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Williamsburg, 14 March 1987, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ANN M. BARKER, SECRETARY

*Members Present:* Carl Bendorf (presiding), Eugene Armstrong, Ann Barker, Ray Cummins, Francis Moore, Carol Thompson. *Members absent:* Jim Dinsmore, Phyllis Harris, Bob Myers. *Others present:* Eloise Armstrong, Rick Hollis, Tom Kent.

*Minutes:* The minutes of 15 November 1986 were approved as circulated with minor changes.

#### *Committee Reports*

**Publications:** Bendorf read a letter from chairman Jim Dinsmore reporting that the committee has not met. Tom Kent commented that the responsibility for publication and distribution of the field checklist remains unclear.

**Membership:** Chairman Francis Moore reported that the committee has not met. President Bendorf suggested that the committee needs to formulate plans for meeting previously set goal of 500 members by end of 1987. Moore reported approximately 93 percent renewal rate among members for 1987. Membership applications were distributed to Board members and will be mailed to all county conservation boards, to science teachers, and to other target groups. It was moved (Moore, seconded by Cummins) to increase Membership Committee membership to five, from the present three (Passed 5-0).

**Education Committee:** This committee (Rick Hollis, Bernie Knight, Marie Spears, Linda Zalelet) mailed a questionnaire to teachers around the state to determine the level of interest in developing a curricular package on birds. Chairman Hollis stated that a complete report of the results should be available for the spring meeting. The proposed package would consist of an outline and list of resources and should be quite inexpensive.

**Feeder Survey:** Hollis summarized the status of this project co-sponsored by the I.O.U. and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Hollis suggested that the Board should assess its involvement with this project. Presently, the D.N.R. is processing all of the data. There is also need for better distribution of forms and questions about how best to publish data. President Bendorf appointed a committee consisting of Rick Hollis, chair, Carol Thompson, Laura Jackson, and Tom Kent, ex-officio, to make suggestions regarding use and publication of Feeder Survey data. The Board expressed general support for the project and felt the I.O.U. should be more involved, especially with data processing and publication of results in *Iowa Bird Life*. Publicity for the Feeder Survey may be handled through the Membership Committee.

**Bird-a-thon:** The committee (Eugene Armstrong, Ray Cummins, Tom Kent) met before the Board meeting. Members responding to a questionnaire ranked reasons for participating in a bird-a-thon in the following order: (1) to have fun, (2) to compete, (3) to raise money, and (4) to collect data. The committee decided that all participants should follow American Birding Association rules for conducting Big Days. Awards will be given in the following categories: (1) team with highest species count for the state, (2) team with highest count for one county, and (3) team that raises the most funds. Participants may choose any date through 20 May and the minimum entry fee per team will be \$10. Fund raising is not mandatory but is encourage. The deadline for submitting forms and money is 22 May. Anyone using an airplane will not be eligible for the high state total award. It was moved (Barker, seconded by Thompson) that the Board accept and support the project and allocate funds raised as recommended by the committee (75 percent to the endowment fund and 25 percent to I.O.U. projects) and that the committee's expenses be paid out of the general fund (Passed 5-0).

**Breeding Bird Atlas:** Carol Thompson reported that the committee composed of herself, John Fleckenstein, Darwin Koenig, Doug Reeves, and Barb Wilson met in November. The project is co-sponsored with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the committee discussed what is being done and how the project can be made more successful. To better inform local coordinators, an article will be published in *I.O.U. News* and a coordinator's newsletter will be put together. A talk is being planned for the spring I.O.U. meeting. Processing and publication of data is presently controlled by the Department of Natural Resources. Tom Kent suggested that both parties have access to the data, and that analysis of the data should be started prior to completion of the project with feedback to participants.

Budget Committee: Chairman Francis Moore distributed a financial statement and balance sheet summary for 1985 and 1986, and a proposed budget for 1987. After considerable discussion and revision, it was moved (Thompson, seconded by Armstrong) that the budget be approved as revised (Passed 5-0). At its next meeting the Board would like the treasurer to report specifically on the breakdown of money allocated to each fund.

#### *Old Business*

President Bendorf distributed copies of an editorial to be published in *Iowa Bird Life* summarizing the state of the organization.

Plans for the spring meeting in Sioux City are progressing well. A registration form will be published in the upcoming newsletter. The 1987 fall meeting will be held at the state 4-H Camping Center near Luther, Iowa, on 13-15 November. Host will be the Big Bluestem Audubon Society; Jim Dinsmore is in charge of arrangements. The 1988 spring meeting will be held in Mason City. Bendorf will contact Curt Nelson to make local arrangements.

Discussion was held regarding establishing a central mailing address for all correspondence. The Board felt this to be generally impractical. It was moved (Cummins, seconded by Moore) to use the mailing address of Tom Kent, editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, for distribution of all I.O.U. materials (Passed 5-0).

Bendorf indicated a need for the Board to set policies regarding disposition of official papers and correspondence handled by officers and members of the Board.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sioux City, 30 May 1987, 12:30 to 1:00 p.m.

ANN M. BARKER, SECRETARY

*Members present:* Carl Bendorf, Eugene Armstrong, Ann Barker, Ray Cummins, Francis Moore, Bob Myers, and Carol Thompson. *Member absent:* Phyllis Harris. *Others present:* Tom Kent.

*Minutes:* The minutes of the meeting of 14 March 1987 were approved as circulated.

#### *Treasurer's Report*

Bendorf commended Treasurer Francis Moore for his excellent work on the new budget, which was approved at the March board meeting. Moore presented the annual financial statement which has been audited. A more detailed report will be given at the business meeting. A financial statement will be presented each year henceforth. The Board felt the only additional information necessary was a breakdown of money allocated to each fund.

#### *Committee Reports*

*Membership:* A change in the committee's bylaws was necessary to increase the membership of the committee to five. It was moved (Moore, seconded by Thompson) that the bylaws be amended with the following wording under the heading "Committee Structure:" (1) The committee shall consist of five members, one of whom is the Treasurer of the Union; (2) The Treasurer's term is set by the constitution. The other members shall be appointed by the Board for two-year terms, with two members appointed every other year. Terms begin after the first annual meeting of the Union in the year of appointment. No members shall serve more than two consecutive terms; (3) The committee may make recommendations to the Board for filling vacancies, whether expired or vacated. The motion passed 6-0. It was moved (Cummins, seconded by Myers) to approve Bob Livermore for a term expiring in 1988 and Ann Barker for a term expiring in 1989 as new members of the committee. The motion passed 6-0. The committee plans to use the new checklist to recruit new members; current members will be asked to distribute it to potential members. The committee also hopes to have the membership brochure printed by the end of June and distributed to members in the summer mailing of *Iowa Bird Life*. The Board favors anything the committee can do to increase membership.

#### *Old Business*

*Upcoming Meetings:* The Spring 1990 meeting is proposed to be held jointly with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and Minnesota Ornithologists' Union in La Crosse, WI. It was moved (Armstrong, seconded by Cummins) to nominate Carl Bendorf to serve as our representative on the planning committee for the joint meeting. Passed 6-0.

Examples of the proposed new logo were presented to the Board. After some discussion, it was moved (Moore, seconded by Barker) to recommend that the design of a revised Goldfinch sitting on a thistle surrounded by the state of Iowa be adopted as our official logo. Passed 6-0.

### New Business

1988 Dues: It was moved (Thompson, seconded by Moore) that the board recommend that membership dues remain at current levels for 1988. Passed 6-0.

## SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

Sioux City, 30 May 1987, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

ANN M. BARKER, SECRETARY

*Minutes:* It was moved (Ed Crocker, seconded by Ross Silcock) that the minutes of the fall meeting be accepted as published in *Iowa Bird Life*. Passed.

### Reports

Treasurer: Francis Moore presented the following audited statement of assets, income, and expenses. The budget for 1987 anticipates approximately the same increase in revenues over expenses as seen in 1986.

### Treasurer's Report--1986

|                          |           |             |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Assets 31 Dec 1985       |           | \$16,223.73 |
| 1986 Addition            |           | 891.33      |
| Assets 31 Dec 1986       |           | \$17,115.06 |
| Cash                     | 6,313.41  |             |
| CDs                      | 10,131.69 |             |
| Interest due             | 669.96    |             |
| Income 1986              |           | \$11,220.04 |
| Contributions            | 2,765.82  |             |
| Members                  | 800.00    |             |
| Bird-a-thon              | 1,106.47  |             |
| Birdline                 | 30.00     |             |
| Royalties                | 829.35    |             |
| Membership/Subscriptions | 6,771.50  |             |
| First member             | 5,623.00  |             |
| Second member            | 184.00    |             |
| Third+ member            | 8.00      |             |
| Life memberships         | 437.50    |             |
| Subscriptions            | 519.00    |             |
| Sales                    | 814.79    |             |
| Back issues              | 661.00    |             |
| Other materials          | 153.79    |             |
| Interest                 | 650.32    |             |
| Meetings                 | 217.61    |             |
| Expenses 1986            |           | \$10,328.71 |
| Publications Committee   | 7,838.60  |             |
| Iowa Bird Life           | 6,700.60  |             |
| I.O.U. News              | 847.37    |             |
| Other                    | 290.63    |             |
| Membership Committee     | 480.17    |             |
| Records Committee        | 80.13     |             |
| Meetings                 | 301.49    |             |
| Treasurer                | 112.31    |             |
| Board of Directors       | 34.02     |             |
| Scholarship Fund         | 1,081.92  |             |
| Birdline                 | 245.77    |             |
| Bird-a-thon              | 71.70     |             |
| Other                    | 82.60     |             |

Publications Committee: No report.

Library/Historical Committee: No report.

Records Committee: Tom Kent reported that new field checklist has been prepared and was presented to the membership. This has been done as a joint effort between the Records and the Publications committees. The format is now a three-fold card with more information and more room for notes. The price will be ten cents each.

Membership Committee: Francis Moore reported that the committee met this morning. Renewals this year have been received from 95 percent of last year's membership. Current membership stands at 440, plus 50 institutional subscriptions. Membership goal for the year is 500. Three recommendations were made: (1) That the checklist be distributed through I.O.U. members as well as county conservation offices, state park offices, membership information packet, etc.; (2) That a new membership brochure be written and printed by the end of June. This will be sent out to members in the summer mailing of *Iowa Bird Life* and distributed in a manner similar to the checklist; and (3) That the composition of the committee should be increased from three to five and terms lengthened to give a broader base of representation. This has been approved by the board.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Following a complete presentation of the project earlier in the afternoon, no additional report was made. President Bendorf reminded the committee that a budget request should be submitted before the end of the year.

Big Day: Tom Kent reported for the committee, composed of himself, Eugene Armstrong, and Ray Cummins. Although off to a late start, the committee felt it had been successful in carrying out the project this year. Awards will be presented at the banquet. The main emphasis of the project was to have fun. Proceeds will be distributed 75 percent to the endowment fund and 25 percent to I.O.U. projects. The committee hopes for more participation next year.

Feeder Survey: No report.

Education: Rick Hollis reported that the committee, composed of himself, Marie Spears, Linda Zaletel, and Bernie Knight had explored the need for a curriculum package on birds. Response to a survey conducted by the committee was generally very positive. It was moved (Hollis, seconded by Barb Wilson) to recommend that the President appoint a committee to prepare a packet of educational materials for use in Iowa's elementary schools. Passed.

#### *Old Business*

President Bendorf distributed copies of the final design for the new logo which has been prepared and accepted by the Board. It shows a Goldfinch on a thistle surrounded by the outline of the state of Iowa. It was moved (Francis Moore, seconded by Rick Hollis) to adopt this design as I.O.U.'s official logo. In the discussion that followed, some members objected to the design of the thistle. A straw poll indicated that members approved the outline of the state of Iowa and the Goldfinch design but still had some question about the thistle. Final approval of the logo was tabled until the fall meeting. It was moved (Hollis, seconded by Wilson) that the Membership Committee be allowed to use the logo in the interim with some variation of the thistle. The motion passed.

#### *New Business*

The fall meeting has been set for the 4-H camp near Luther on November 13-15, 1987.

Curt Nelson issued an invitation from the Lime Creek Nature Center to hold the Spring 1988 meeting in Mason City. The Nature Center is located on 300 acres of wooded grounds. Facilities available for the meeting may also include a community college or church camp. It was moved (Curt Nelson, seconded by Tom Kent) to accept the invitation and set the date for 20-22 May 1988. The motion passed.

President Bendorf relayed an invitation from the La Crosse Audubon Society to hold a joint meeting with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union in spring 1990, probably the second or third weekend in May. It was moved (Rick Hollis, seconded by Tom Kent) to accept the invitation. Passed.

The Board recommended that dues for 1988 remain at current levels. It was moved (Ross Silcock, seconded by Carol Thompson) that dues for 1988 be established as recommended by the board. Passed with one dissenter.

The nominating committee, composed of Hank Zaletel, Ross Silcock, and Beth Proescholdt presented the following slate of officers and Board members: President--Jim Dinsmore; Vice President--Carol Thompson; Board Members--Carl Bendorf, Bob Cecil, and Jim Sinclair. Each available position was considered in turn and there were no other nominations. The nominees were elected. The nominating committee recommended Beth Brown to fill the remainder of Carol Thompson's term on the Board. Brown was elected.

President Bendorf announced that the Articles of Incorporation, which were passed at last year's spring meeting, have been filed with the state.

Bird Line funds are low and an appeal will be sent to members for contributions.

Hank Zalefel is holding a silent auction of old books which have been donated. Bids will be accepted this afternoon.

President Bendorf described the recently established endowment fund. The Board's intention is to build a substantial fund so that the interest might be used for long term activities and projects such as publication of the Breeding Bird Atlas. Money from the fund will not be spent on everyday expenses. Members may donate to the fund directly.

John Fleckenstein announced that the Department of Natural Resources has recently published a new checklist of butterflies of Iowa which will be available at the banquet.

## BYLAWS OF THE LIBRARY/HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 15 NOVEMBER 1986

### *Purpose*

1. To promote access to ornithological publications relevant to Iowa.
2. To promote the preservation of information and artifacts of Iowa ornithology.
3. To carry out such library/historical projects as are of interest to the committee and/or the membership.
4. To receive and dispose of materials of library/historical interest on behalf of the Union.

### *Committee Structure*

1. The committee shall consist of five members.
2. Terms on the committee shall be five years with one member appointed to the committee each year. Terms shall begin after the first annual meeting of the Union in the year of the appointment. No member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.
3. The committee may make recommendations to the Board for filling positions on the committee, whether vacated or expiring.
4. The committee shall elect its own officers which shall include at least a chairperson.

### *Committee Procedures*

1. The committee may set up such procedures as are needed for its operation as long as they do not conflict with the Constitution or the committee bylaws.
2. The committee may recommend changes in its bylaws to the Board.
3. The committee may hold meetings as needed and/or conduct business by mail or phone. The chairperson or any two other members may call a meeting.
4. The committee may make arrangements with libraries or other institutions in the name of the Union. If such arrangements involve expenditure of funds or transfer of Union property of substantial value, they shall be approved by the Board.
5. If necessary, the committee may set up a "library" of materials belonging to the Union and create an administrative position to manage it. This should be done only when existing institutions are not a feasible site for the materials and only with approval of the Board.
6. When feasible, the committee should carry out its repository function through existing institutions and publish its studies in existing periodicals.
7. The committee may dispose of materials that are not of significant historical value. Any monies received shall be deposited with the Treasurer.

### *Finances*

1. If the committee anticipates the need for funds to carry out its function, a budget should be submitted to the Board (via the President) prior to January 1 of a calendar year.
2. Special requests for funding of specific projects may be made to the Board.
3. No member shall receive remuneration for their work on the committee. Any benefits, direct or indirect, to a committee member, relative or friend shall be discussed and considered by the committee prior to any decision to expend funds.
4. Any benefits, direct or indirect, to administrative positions established by the committee or persons appointed to these positions shall be discussed and considered prior to establishment of the position or appointment of the person. If such benefits are substantial or represent a significant conflict of interest, they shall have prior approval of the Board.
5. Ordinarily, members of this committee will not be reimbursed for their expenses.